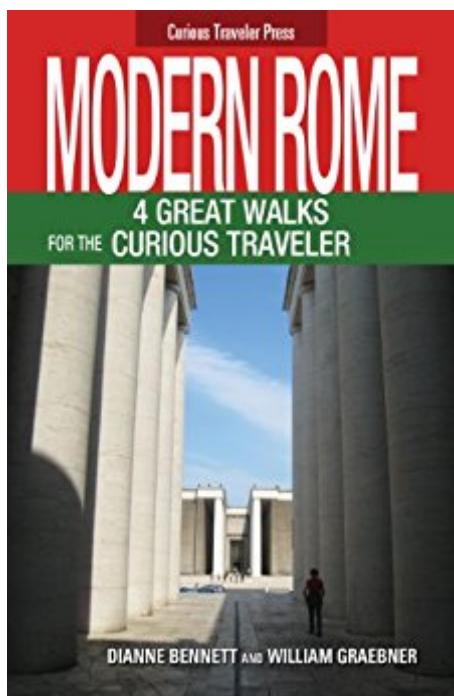


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# Modern Rome: 4 Great Walks For The Curious Traveler (Curious Traveler Series Book 2)



## Synopsis

BEST TRAVEL GUIDEBOOK 2014 in eLIT Awards. Seen the Coliseum and the Vatican? Tired of ancient history? Looking for a more authentic, more contemporary, experience? Walk the new Rome, without the tourists. Rome with the Romans. Following the success of their alternative guidebook, *Rome the Second Time*, authors Dianne Bennett and William Graebner take you step-by-step as you explore Garbatella, a delightful 1920s planned community; spectacular, monumental EUR, built to commemorate Fascism; Flaminio, the heart of Romeâ€”â„¢s burgeoning cultural scene, and across the Tiber, Foro Italico, a virtual â€œMussolini theme parkâ€”that hosted the 1960 Olympic Games; and the charming, intriguing stairways in Trastevereâ€”â„¢s back yard. Modern Rome features over 100 hyperlinks, 63 photos, and 4 detailed maps. Pack your bags. Bring your curiosity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After reading Bennett and Graebner's first guidebook, *Rome the Second Time Around*, I followed

either all or part of about 6 itineraries described in the book. My only disappointment was not having more time in Rome to do them all. The walks were fantastic and took me to wonderful sites and sights I could have never found on my own. Now that I have read and vicariously taken the four itineraries in their newest work, *Modern Rome*, I want to get back there as soon as possible to do the walks described so enticingly -- Garbatella, EUR, Flaminio, and Staircase walks in Trastevere. Coincidentally, I have spent time in the Flaminio District and visited the Olympic sites discussed, as well as Renzo Piano's magnificent *Parco Della Musica*, but I didn't really know what I was seeing until I read the commentary in this amazing guidebook. The descriptions of the walks and the accompanying maps satisfy my inner anxious twit who worries about getting lost by being very clear, precise, and relatively easy to follow. But more important to me personally is the fascinating information given about each sight and stop along the way. I share many of the authors' interests and appreciate the detailed discussion of architecture, sculpture, mosaics, frescoes and paintings found on the streets and in churches, piazzas and other public spaces. I can honestly say that they have given me a deeper appreciation of modernism in art and architecture in both of their books but especially in this one which intentionally highlights Modernism. I am also enlightened and entertained by the social, cultural, and political history incorporated liberally throughout. And as an unrepentant cinephile myself, I love knowing in what classic Italian films various sites appeared. Who knew that scenes from De Sica's "The Bicycle Thief" were filmed in Flaminio? I highly recommend this book as well as the earlier one, *Rome The Second Time Around*, and their marvelous blog to anyone who loves Rome, enjoys walking, possesses a spirit of adventure, and is compelled to learn new things always and forever. Mary Lee in New Hampshire

Shakespeare once wrote of Cleopatra, "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety." Dianne Bennett and Bill Graebner's new guidebook, *Modern Rome: 4 Great Walks for the Curious Traveler*, convinces this reader of the "infinite variety" of Rome. In this stand-alone sequel to their earlier *Rome the Second Time*, Bennett and Graebner guide us on four new walks; first, through the social experiment and "Garden City Suburb" of Garbatella; next, through the 20th century modernist architectural wonders of EUR (which stands for "Universal Exhibition of Rome, now a center of business and government); then, through Rome's emerging cultural center, Flaminio; and finally, up and down the stairs (and panoramic views) of Trastevere. While other guidebooks insist upon the timeless wonders of ancient and Renaissance Rome, these walks convince us of the dynamism of

20th century Rome. While Modern Rome participated in the unhappy politics of 20th century Italy, Bennett and Graebner remind us that that was only one of the many ways in which modern Romans have sought to live up to their ancient grandeur. Readers who follow these carefully narrated walks (whether in Rome or just in imagination) will enjoy Bennett-Graebner's distinctive blend of architectural analysis, political history, and cultural allusion. Each walk effortlessly mixes commentary on the built environment with the films of Pasolini, discussion of the ambitions of Mussolini with glimpses of ephemeral street fairs. Each walk is also accompanied by many fine, high-resolution photographs as well as by a large, highly legible map. Through each expedition, the variety of modern Rome is brought to life with keen observation and practical advice. For example, they tell us which bar, cafÃ©, art museum, piazza or view deserves our attention. The energy and care with which this guidebook has been written recharges the reality of the "eternal city."

What a delight! Bennett and Graebner score again with utterly engaging accounts of a Rome rarely seen by tourists. Their deep knowledge, personal experiences, and undying fascination for modern Rome make otherwise unnoticed parks, piazzas, and public art come alive. We all hope, when we travel, go to the theater, or view art, to come away with a new vision of the world around us. The marvel of this short book is that it accomplishes just that. As Dianne and Bill lead us in their amiable and expert way through four very different parts of the city, we begin to understand the political and cultural messages so boldly left in (and on) stone, stucco, and cement by the planners, architects, and ordinary citizens of modern Rome. Gerald Charlottesville, VA

A very brief account of 4 walks in rarely visited parts of Rome. The descriptions were ok but the maps were unreadable. Also some assertions are incorrect. Calling the cube of the Palazzo dei Congressi in EUR as consisting of 36 sq meters is a terrible editorial error when it is at least 50 to 60 times that size. A quick job on their part and not well done.

Nada del otro mundo

A great follow-up to the original book. Reader walks the streets with two highly informed two companions and sees unique neighborhoods in Rome with fresh eyes. Thanks to Bennett and Graebner for another delightful guidebook.

Very accurate and insightful!

As usual, the authors have a great way of digging deeper into different aspects of Rome. This book is great for visitors who have been to Rome a few times and want to get beyond the obvious, or for first time travelers who don't want to see what everyone else has on the list. Things are laid out clearly, so it's easy to follow and they publish updates over on their blog, so things never go out of date. Great read to get yourself lost in a different side of Rome, the modern one!

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